

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 088087
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RPOST:CJ
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
L/AF:NELY
INR:HCAMPBELL
S/P:PHKREISBERG
ARA/CCA:WSSMITH
S/MS:CKAMMAN
AF/W:RGHOUDEK
EUR:WHLUERS
S/S-O :RCASTRODAE

-----005840 060209Z /61

O P 060122Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 088087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR ET SO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS ON BORDER
VILLAGES

REF: MOGADISCIO 717 (BEING REPEATED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 088087

1. REFTEL REPORTS SUMMONS BY SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD TO
I. REFTEL REPORTS SUMMONS BY SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD TO
AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN APPEALING TO US TO INTERVENE TO
STOP ALLEGED PLANS FOR ETHIOPIAN INVASION OF SOMALIA.
SIAD CITED IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF DEPLOYMENT OF
ETHIOPIAN/CUBAN/SOUTH YEMENI TROOPS NEAR THREE POINTS

ALONG SOUTHERN OGADEN AND ONE IN NORTH NEAR JIGJIGA. SIAD EXPECTS ATTACKS IN SOUTH TO BE DIVERSIONARY WITH MAIN ATTACK IN NORTH AIMED AT REACHING THE SEA AT ZEILA AND BERBERA.

2. FYI: WE HAVE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION INDICATING THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE IN FACT PLANNING TAKE THREE BORDER VILLAGES ALONG SOUTHERN OGADEN BORDER AND ONE NEAR JIGJIGA, ALL FOUR OF WHICH ETHIOPIANS ALLEGE SOMALIS CAPTURED IN 1963/4 WAR AND WHICH HAILE SELASSIE NEVER RECOVERED FOR ETHIOPIA. WHILE WE DISMISS ANY ETHIOPIAN PLAN TO DRIVE TO SEA, THEIR PLANS TO TAKE THE VILLAGES SEEM FIRM WITH CONSEQUENT LIKELIHOOD NEW OUTBREAK OF

FIGHTING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO CLEAR EVIDENCE WHETHER THESE VILLAGES ARE IN ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT ANY DISPUTES CONCERNING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATION, NOT THE USE OF VIOLENCE. END FYI

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO CONVEY US CONCERN THAT WE MAY BE ABOUT TO WITNESS A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WHICH COULD RESULT IN RENEWED CONFLICT BETWEEN THEIR ARMED FORCES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 088087

YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS BUT NOT ON THE SPECIFICS OF PARAGRAPH TWO:

-- IN RECENT DAYS, A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED WHICH COULD LEAD TO A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA: VOCAL SOMALI GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN, CLAIMED INSURGENT ATTACKS AGAINST ETHIOPIAN FORCES, REPORTED ETHIOPIAN AIR STRIKES AGAINST A SOMALI TOWN APPARENTLY IN RETALIATION, DEPLOYMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN FORCES TOWARD BORDER AREAS ON WHICH THEY MAY HAVE SOME HISTORICAL CLAIM.

-- WE FEEL IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WERE TO COMPROMISE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE END TO THE FIGHTING AND WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES TO MOVE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE TWO PARTIES SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE TO TRY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM.

-- IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER USE OF VIOLENCE, WHETHER IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICAL CLAIMS TO TERRITORY OR IN RETALIATION FOR COMPLICITY IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED WITHIN ONE'S OWN TERRITORY.

-- WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT NEITHER COUNTRY IS JUSTIFIED IN GIVING MORAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT TO DISSIDENTS WITHIN THE OTHER AND FEEL BOTH SHOULD AVOID HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE OTHER IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING A CLIMATE IN WHICH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, RATHER THAN A RENEWED ROUND OF VIOLENCE WITH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 088087

UNPREDICTABLE RAMIFICATIONS.

4. FOR ADDIS ABABA: IN ADDITION TO THE MATERIAL IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH, YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE HOPE THAT ETHIOPIA WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE PROVOKED BY INSURGENT ATTACKS OR SOMALI GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA INTO RETALIATORY ACTION WHICH WOULD PLACE IT IN A POSITION WHERE SOMALIA COULD CLAIM THAT SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY HAD BEEN VIOLATED. THIS WOULD BE COSTLY TO ETHIOPIA'S DIPLOMATIC POSTURE WHICH TO DATE HAS ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT WITHIN THE OAU. IT WOULD ALSO INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF A WIDENING OF THE CONFLICT.

5. FOR HAVANA, MOSCOW AND NAIROBI: YOU SHOULD USE MATERIAL IN BOTH PARAS 3 AND 4 IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE HOST GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ETHIOPIA TO COUNSEL AGAINST ANY RESORT TO VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD DAMAGE ETHIOPIA'S POSITION AND RISK ENLARGING THE CONFLICT.

6. FOR LAGOS: YOU SHOULD USE FOREGOING AND ENHANCED US ACCESS STEMMING FROM PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO URGE NIGERIANS TO PUSH AHEAD WITH SCHEDULED APRIL 10 GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING, OR EVEN EARLIER IF POSSIBLE, IN HOPE THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WOULD BE DETERRED FROM INAUGURATING NEW ROUND OF FIGHTING WHILE OAU COMMITTEE SITTING. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IF EITHER PARTY OR ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE BALKS AND SEEKS POSTPONEMENT, NIGERIA MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER INFORMING RECALCITRANTS THAT URGENCY OF TAKING ACTION IN FACE OF THREAT OF RENEWED VIOLENCE REQUIRES THAT MEETING PROCEED, WITH OR WITHOUT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL CAPITALS CONCERNED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 088087

7. FOR MOGADISCIO: YOU SHOULD INFORM SIAD THAT US IS RAISING WITH ETHIOPIANS, SOVIETS AND CUBANS SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE ATTACKS AGAINST SOMALI TERRITORY. YOU MAY FURTHER SAY THAT OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE MAY IN FACT BE A POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONFLICT, THOUGH WITH MORE LIMITED ETHIOPIAN OBJECTIVES THAN SIAD INDICATED. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, CONTINUED MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WSLF BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONFLICT, PROVIDING SOMALIA AND REPRISALS AGAINST THE OGADEN POPULATION (THOUGH WE HAVE TO DATE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH REPRISALS HAVE IN FACT OCCURRED). IT ALSO PROVIDES THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WITH AN ARGUMENT FOR MAINTAINING COMBAT FORCES IN

ETHIOPIA.

8. ALSO FOR MOGADISCIO: WE HAVE IN CLEARANCE PROCESS INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU TO SEEK AN UNAMBIGUOUS ASSURANCE FROM SIAD RE BORDERS, OFFERING A LETHAL ADD-ON TO THE NON-LETHAL IMPACT PACKAGE. YOU MIGHT WISH TO AWAIT THAT TELEGRAM BEFORE CONVEYING THE MATERIAL IN THIS MESSAGE. HOWEVER, IF YOU FEEL URGENCY OF SITUATION REQUIRES YOU TO RETURN TO SIAD IMMEDIATELY WITH FOREGOING, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 088087

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:DROBINSON

-----025949 070046Z /21

O 062250Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088087

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT STATE 088087 SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA, USINT HAVANA,
LAGOS, MOSCOW, MOGADISCIO, NAIROBI INFO HORN OF AFRICA
COLLECTIVE DTD 060122Z APR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 088087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR ET SO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS ON BORDER
VILLAGES

REF: MOGADISCIO 717 (BEING REPEATED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES)

1. REFTEL REPORTS SUMMONS BY SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD TO
AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN APPEALING TO US TO INTERVENE TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 088087

STOP ALLEGED PLANS FOR ETHIOPIAN INVASION OF SOMALIA.
SIAD CITED IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF DEPLOYMENT OF
ETHIOPIAN/CUBAN/SOUTH YEMENI TROOPS NEAR THREE POINTS
ALONG SOUTHERN OGADEN AND ONE IN NORTH NEAR JIGJIGA.
SIAD EXPECTS ATTACKS IN SOUTH TO BE DIVERSIONARY WITH
MAIN ATTACK IN NORTH AIMED AT REACHING THE SEA AT ZEILA
AND BERBERA.

2. FYI: WE HAVE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION INDICATING
THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE IN FACT PLANNING TAKE THREE BORDER
VILLAGES ALONG SOUTHERN OGADEN BORDER AND ONE NEAR
JIGJIGA, ALL FOUR OF WHICH ETHIOPIANS ALLEGE SOMALIS
CAPTURED IN 1963/4 WAR AND WHICH HAILE SELASSIE NEVER
RECOVERED FOR ETHIOPIA. WHILE WE DISMISS ANY ETHIOPIAN
PLAN TO DRIVE TO SEA, THEIR PLANS TO TAKE THE VILLAGES
SEEM FIRM WITH CONSEQUENT LIKELIHOOD NEW OUTBREAK OF

FIGHTING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO CLEAR
EVIDENCE WHETHER THESE VILLAGES ARE IN ETHIOPIA OR
SOMALIA. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT ANY DISPUTES
CONCERNING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATION, NOT THE USE OF VIOLENCE. END FYI

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO CONVEY US CONCERN THAT WE MAY BE ABOUT TO WITNESS A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WHICH COULD RESULT IN RENEWED CONFLICT BETWEEN THEIR ARMED FORCES. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS BUT NOT ON THE SPECIFICS OF PARAGRAPH TWO:

-- IN RECENT DAYS, A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 088087

OCCURRED WHICH COULD LEAD TO A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA: VOCAL SOMALI GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN, CLAIMED INSURGENT ATTACKS AGAINST ETHIOPIAN FORCES, REPORTED ETHIOPIAN AIR STRIKES AGAINST A SOMALI TOWN APPARENTLY IN RETALIATION, DEPLOYMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN FORCES TOWARD BORDER AREAS ON WHICH THEY MAY HAVE SOME HISTORICAL CLAIM.

-- WE FEEL IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WERE TO COMPROMISE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE END TO THE FIGHTING AND WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES TO MOVE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE TWO PARTIES SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE TO TRY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM.

-- IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER USE OF VIOLENCE, WHETHER IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICAL CLAIMS TO TERRITORY OR IN RETALIATION FOR COMPLICITY IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED WITHIN ONE'S OWN TERRITORY.

-- WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT NEITHER COUNTRY IS JUSTIFIED IN GIVING MORAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT TO DISSIDENTS WITHIN THE OTHER AND FEEL BOTH SHOULD AVOID HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE OTHER IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING A CLIMATE IN WHICH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, RATHER THAN A RENEWED ROUND OF VIOLENCE WITH

UNPREDICTABLE RAMIFICATIONS.

4. FOR ADDIS ABABA: IN ADDITION TO THE MATERIAL IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH, YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE HOPE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 088087

THAT ETHIOPIA WILL NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE PROVOKED BY INSURGENT ATTACKS OR SOMALI GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA INTO RETALIATORY ACTION WHICH WOULD PLACE IT IN A POSITION WHERE SOMALIA COULD CLAIM THAT SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY HAD BEEN VIOLATED. THIS WOULD BE COSTLY TO ETHIOPIA'S DIPLOMATIC POSTURE WHICH TO DATE HAS ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT WITHIN THE OAU. IT WOULD ALSO INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF A WIDENING OF THE CONFLICT.

5. FOR HAVANA, MOSCOW AND NAIROBI: YOU SHOULD USE MATERIAL IN BOTH PARAS 3 AND 4 IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE HOST GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ETHIOPIA TO COUNSEL AGAINST ANY RESORT TO VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD DAMAGE ETHIOPIA'S POSITION AND RISK ENLARGING THE CONFLICT.

6. FOR LAGOS: YOU SHOULD USE FOREGOING AND ENHANCED US ACCESS STEMMING FROM PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO URGE NIGERIANS TO PUSH AHEAD WITH SCHEDULED APRIL 10 GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING, OR EVEN EARLIER IF POSSIBLE, IN HOPE THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WOULD BE DETERRED FROM INAUGURATING NEW ROUND OF FIGHTING WHILE OAU COMMITTEE SITTING. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IF EITHER PARTY OR ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE BALKS AND SEEKS POSTPONEMENT, NIGERIA MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER INFORMING RECALCITRANTS THAT URGENCY OF TAKING ACTION IN FACE OF THREAT OF RENEWED VIOLENCE REQUIRES THAT MEETING PROCEED, WITH OR WITHOUT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL CAPITALS CONCERNED.

7. FOR MOGADISCIO: YOU SHOULD INFORM SIAD THAT US IS RAISING WITH ETHIOPIANS, SOVIETS AND CUBANS SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE ATTACKS AGAINST SOMALI TERRITORY. YOU MAY FURTHER SAY THAT OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE MAY IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 088087

FACT BE A POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONFLICT, THOUGH WITH MORE LIMITED ETHIOPIAN OBJECTIVES THAN SIAD INDICATED. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, CONTINUED MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WSLF BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONFLICT, PROVIDING SOMALIA AND REPRISALS AGAINST THE OGADEN POPULATION (THOUGH WE HAVE TO DATE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH REPRISALS HAVE IN FACT OCCURRED). IT ALSO PROVIDES THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS

WITH AN ARGUMENT FOR MAINTAINING COMBAT FORCES IN

ETHIOPIA.

8. ALSO FOR MOGADISCIO: WE HAVE IN CLEARANCE PROCESS INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU TO SEEK AN UNAMBIGUOUS ASSURANCE FROM SIAD RE BORDERS, OFFERING A LETHAL ADD-ON TO THE NON-LETHAL IMPACT PACKAGE. YOU MIGHT WISH TO AWAIT THAT TELEGRAM BEFORE CONVEYING THE MATERIAL IN THIS MESSAGE. HOWEVER, IF YOU FEEL URGENCY OF SITUATION REQUIRES YOU TO RETURN TO SIAD IMMEDIATELY WITH FOREGOING, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE088087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RPOST:CJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0999
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780485/aaaacubi.tel
Line Count: 399
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5835cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOGADISCIO 717
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3052787
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS ON BORDER VILLAGES
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO
To: ADDIS ABABA HAVANA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5835cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014